

REMARKS

Claim Status

New Claim 11 has been added based on the disclosure at, *inter alia*, p. 23, lines 7-10 and 21-32.

Claims 1 and 10-11 are now pending in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) Over Hanser

Claims 1 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Hanser (WO 98/42286). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The cited reference Hanser discloses an absorbent article having a protective, releasable cover on the topsheet upper surface of the absorbent article. Hanser requires that its protective cover is attached to its topsheet upper surface. Furthermore, the protective cover of Hanser is designed to protect the lotion treated topsheet from contamination, whereas the barrier sheet of the presently claimed invention is designed to protect the flap adhesive from being fouled by the oil-based skin care composition.

In contrast to Hanser, the presently claimed invention relates to an absorbent article comprising flaps, each flap having flap adhesive on the garment side of each flap. An oil-based skin care composition is provided on at least a portion of the topsheet of the absorbent article. The presently claimed absorbent article further comprises a barrier sheet attached only to the flaps by the flap adhesive. The barrier sheet reduces the migration of the skin care composition therethrough to protect the flap adhesive from said oil-based skin care composition. The barrier sheet comprises a component selected from the group consisting of fluorochemicals, hydrophilic polymers, inorganic particles, and mixtures thereof.

Applicants submit that Hanser does not teach each and every element of the presently claimed invention. Applicants therefore submit that Hanser does not anticipate Claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and respectfully request that the present rejection be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

This response represents an earnest effort to place the present application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as claimed from the applied reference. In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments presented herein, reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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